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**EUROPEAN COLLEGE OF  
SMALL RUMINANT  
HEALTH MANAGEMENT  
(ECSRHM)**

**CONSTITUTION**

**September 2010**

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**Article 1: Name and structure**

1.1. The name of the organisation is "*European College of Small Ruminant Health Management*", hereafter referred to as "*College*" and abbreviated as "*ECSRHM*".

1.2. The College is incorporated under the laws of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland as a non-profit equal opportunity educational organisation.

1.3. The College is part of the general scheme for veterinary specialisation in the European Union, which involves the European Coordinating Committee for Veterinary Training, the European Board of Veterinary Specialisation (EBVS) and the European Veterinary Speciality Colleges.

**Article 2: Duration**

2.1. The College is established for an unlimited period.

2.2. The college years run concurrently with calendar years. Especially the first college year ends on the last day of December of the year of establishment of the College.

**Article 3: Objectives**

3.1. The College is a non-profit organisation and does not pursue commercial interests.

3.2. Objective of the College is the advancement of veterinary knowledge in the field of small ruminant (sheep, goats) health management by:

- a) Acting as an institution to qualify members of the veterinary profession as specialists in small ruminant health management by establishing and defining the standard of qualification based on evidence-based medicine (EBM);
- b) Developing graduate teaching programs in small ruminant health management;
- c) Developing and supervising EBM continuing education programs for veterinarians interested in small ruminant health management;
- d) Encouraging its members to pursue original scientific investigations and to contribute to the relevant literature;
- e) Defining and describing the veterinary speciality of small ruminant health management;

- 64 f) Supervising the professional activities of its members and ensuring that such  
65 professional activities are guided by EBM;  
66 g) Promoting collaboration with national veterinary associations, farmers'  
67 associations, government institutions and international agencies.

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69 **Article 4: Membership**

70 4.1. Members of the College are the following:

- 71 a) Founding Diplomates  
72 b) Diplomates  
73 c) Non-practising Diplomates  
74 d) Associate Members  
75 e) Honorary Members

76 Veterinarians elected as Founding Diplomates or Diplomates of the College (thereafter:  
77 referred to as "Diplomates") are registered as such and are authorised to use the  
78 designation of "*Diplomate of the European College of Small Ruminant Health*  
79 *Management*", abbreviated as *Dip.ECSRHM*.

80 4.2. Founding Diplomates (article 4, paragraph 1, clause a) are either invited  
81 specialists or *de facto* appointed specialists. These are not required to sit the certifying  
82 examination and are to be elected by meeting the relevant criteria set forth in the  
83 Bylaws.

84 4.3. Diplomates (article 4, paragraph 1, clause b) are veterinarians meeting all the  
85 following criteria:

- 86 a) Have a good moral and ethical standing in the veterinary profession;  
87 b) Practice veterinary medicine in a European country or be entitled to obtain a  
88 licence for practicing in Europe (unless this obligation is waived by the Board);  
89 c) Have successfully passed the certifying examination procedure of the College.

90 4.4. All Diplomates are expected to spend at least 60 per cent of their professional  
91 time (i.e., at least 24 h per week) devoted to aspects of small ruminant health  
92 management. Diplomate status is revoked to individuals who practice the speciality for  
93 less than 60 per cent of professional time (i.e., less than 24 h per week) devoted to  
94 aspects of small ruminant health management and related activities, such as teaching  
95 or research, and to individuals who have not practiced the speciality for two  
96 continuous years or the equivalent of two years during the previous five years.

97 4.5. All Diplomates are required to keep records of all clinical activities, such as  
98 flock/herd health consulting or other involvement in flock/herd health management.

99 4.6. All Diplomates are expected to attend the annual general meeting of the College  
100 and to pay promptly the annual subscriptions. Failure to do so renders a member  
101 subject to disciplinary action. Their further involvement and contribution in the affairs  
102 of the College (e.g., membership of the Board and the various Committees) is also  
103 encouraged.

104 4.7. Diplomates of other European Veterinary Speciality Colleges may be admitted  
105 as ECSRHM Diplomates if they spend 60 per cent of their professional time devoted to  
106 aspects of small ruminant health management and related activities and provided that  
107 there is clear scientific and clinical compatibility between the two specialities.

108 4.8. All Diplomates of the College are required to undertake re-certification at  
109 intervals of five years after registering as such. During this process, all Diplomates are  
110 required to show evidence of their professional activities and that they are continuing:

- 111 a) To participate actively and to contribute in the affairs of the College;
- 112 b) To undertake professional development, by attending scientific meetings and  
113 continuing education programs;
- 114 c) To be actively involved in the dissemination of knowledge related to small  
115 ruminant health management, by contributing to continuing education  
116 programs and by training veterinarians;
- 117 d) To publish peer-reviewed scientific articles in internationally refereed  
118 journals (within the impact factor system) on topics of scientific research or  
119 clinical practice in the speciality.

120 4.9. Diplomates, whose diplomate status has been revoked according to article 4,  
121 paragraphs 4, 6 or 8, are awarded a Non-practising Diplomat status, unless for  
122 reasons of temporary suspension (e.g., pregnancy). Non-practising Diplomates may  
123 neither act as supervisors for training programs, nor vote at the general meetings of  
124 the College. Non-practising Diplomates seeking to revert to full Diplomat status need  
125 to satisfy the requirements of the Credentials Committee concerning criteria for  
126 Diplomat status.

127 4.10. Any Diplomat may be expelled, asked to resign or otherwise disciplined for  
128 non-professional or unethical conduct or other action against the best interest of the  
129 College by a unanimous vote of the Board, following the recommendation of the

130 Disciplinary Committee. Final confirmation of the decision is taken at the subsequent  
131 annual general meeting for immediate effect.

132 4.11. Retired Diplomates are, permanently and irrevocably, deleted from membership  
133 of the College. This voluntary cessation of registration requires notice in writing, to be  
134 received by the Secretary three months prior to the meeting of the Board. It is  
135 thereafter confirmed by the Board for immediate effect.

136 4.12. Scientists of international reputation with at least seven years of experience,  
137 who have contributed significantly to research and advancement of knowledge in small  
138 ruminant health management, can apply to become Associate Members. Associate  
139 Members have no right to vote at the annual general meeting of the College or hold  
140 office of the College.

141 4.13. The College may confer Honorary Member status on persons who have made  
142 exceptional contributions to the speciality of small ruminant health management.  
143 Honorary Members have no right to vote at the annual general meeting or hold office  
144 of the College.

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146 **Article 5: Organization and officers**

147 5.1. The College holds responsibility for organising, approving and administering all  
148 scientific and general matters. The College is composed of all the Diplomates.

149 5.2. The Diplomates will elect the following to serve on the Board of the College for a  
150 period of three (3) years:

- 151 a) President;
- 152 b) Vice-President;
- 153 c) Secretary;
- 154 d) Treasurer.

155 5.3. Election of members of the Board is carried out by secret ballot during an  
156 annual general meeting. Only Diplomates with no dues in arrears (including the year  
157 during which election takes place) shall be eligible to stand in the elections and to hold  
158 office. No-one can stand again for election as President after a full term of office as  
159 President of the College. Separate ballots are carried out: one for the President, one for  
160 the Vice-President, one for the Secretary and one for the Treasurer. In each ballot, the  
161 Diplomates choose from a list of nominees for the above posts. The President, the  
162 Vice-President, the Secretary or the Treasurer is the person who receives the most  
163 votes in the list for the respective post.

164 5.4. The Past-President, i.e. the President whose term has just expired, becomes an  
165 *ex-officio* member of the Board for the term following her/his presidency. Up to two  
166 additional Diplomates may be co-opted as members of the Board, following a  
167 unanimous decision of the Board.

168 5.5. The President, the Past-President, the Vice-President, the Secretary and the  
169 Treasurer are the officers of the College.

170 5.7. The Board shall represent the College.

171 5.8. A quorum of the Board and of all Committees of the College shall consist of a  
172 simple majority of members.

173 5.9. Discharge of officers and their duties shall be as provided for by the Bylaws.

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#### 175 **Article 6: General meeting**

176 6.1. A general meeting of the Diplomates of the College is organised every year.

177 6.2. All decisions during an annual general meeting are taken with an absolute  
178 majority (50.1%) of the Diplomates present at the meeting, unless specific clauses are  
179 mentioned elsewhere in the Constitution or the Bylaws.

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#### 181 **Article 7: Amendments**

182 7.1. Proposed amendments to this Constitution must be signed by at least five (5)  
183 Diplomates of the College in good standing and must be submitted to the President at  
184 least three (3) months prior to an annual general meeting. All proposed amendments  
185 should be distributed to the Diplomates accompanied with a recommendation from  
186 the Board, at least thirty (30) days prior to the annual general meeting. The proposals  
187 should be brought to a vote of the Diplomates at the subsequent annual general  
188 meeting. An affirmative vote of at least two-thirds (2/3) of the Diplomates voting at the  
189 meeting is required for adoption of any amendment.

190 7.2. The Secretary is responsible for making the amendments in the Constitution  
191 and for distributing a copy of the Constitution to all members of the College. The  
192 Constitution of the College should always be available at the College's website.

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#### 194 **Article 8: Dissolution and settlement**

195 8.1. The terms set forth in article 7 shall apply for a decision to dissolve the College.

196 8.2. In the case of dissolution of the College, all assets shall be spent for educational  
197 purposes, as will be decided by the final general meeting of the Diplomates.

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**Article 9: Bylaws**

9.1. Proposed amendments to the Bylaws or proposed new Bylaws must be signed by at least three (3) Diplomates of the College in good standing and should be submitted to the President at least three (3) months prior to an annual general meeting. Amendments to Bylaws should concern issues not or insufficiently described in the Constitution. All proposed amendment to the Bylaws or any new Bylaw should be distributed to the Diplomates accompanied with a recommendation from the Board, at least thirty (30) days prior to the annual general meeting. The proposals should be brought to a vote of the Diplomates at the subsequent annual general meeting. An affirmative vote of at least one-half (1/2) of the Diplomates voting at the meeting is required for adoption of any amendment.

9.2. Bylaws must not contain provision(s) against European or national legislation or against this Constitution.